

City's Population Estimated at 137,847

(Story in Column 1)

Torrance Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Friday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 20, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

TO CALL US

Circulation OfficeDA 5-1515
AdvertisingDA 5-6060
Women's NewsDA 5-6380
News DepartmentDA 5-6060

INSIDE TODAY

Adeline DaleyB-4 ProfileC-1
Ann LandersC-1 SportsD-1
EditorialsC-2 Women's NewsB-1
ObituariesA-2 Want AdsD-4

Series II, Volume V, Number 29



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California 90510—Wednesday, October 9, 1968

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail, \$18 per Year

48 PAGES

City Still No. 4

Torrance had an estimated population of 133,847 as of July 1 the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission said this week.

The city has gained 1,866 new residents in the past year, the commission estimated in its quarterly report. Torrance remains the fourth largest city in the county, behind Glendale.

Glendale recorded a gain of 875 during the year, bringing that city's population to 137,481.

TOTAL population of the county was estimated at 7,119,184.

In the first report to include the new city of Carson, the commission said that city has 60,732 residents to rank 18th among the county's 77 cities.

In a supplemental report, the commission said Torrance now includes 19,938 square miles, the county's seventh largest city in area. Carson now has 16 square miles.

POPULATION estimates for adjacent cities are: Gardena, 44,553; Hawthorne, 49,250; Hermosa Beach, 18,228; Lomita, 20,290; Lawndale, 26,273; Manhattan Beach, 36,814; Palos Verdes Estates, 13,236; Redondo Beach, 58,875; Rolling Hills, 2,059; and Rolling Hills Estates, 6,204.

Total population of the Southwest section of the county was estimated at nearly 940,000.

Educators To Discuss Tax Issue

"The Tax Election" will be the subject of discussion at Monday's luncheon meeting of the Educational Council of Torrance.

Gathering at noon in the Torrance Recreation Center, members will hear Dr. J. H. Hull, school superintendent, and Dr. Frank L. Mattox, assistant superintendent of business, discuss Proposition 9 and other school-related measures.

Providing music for the program will be the Torrance High School Glee Club.

Deputy District Attorney Dies; Rites Set Thursday

Memorial services for Robert J. Burnett, 35, of Santa Monica will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Westwood Village Mortuary in West Los Angeles.

Mr. Burnett, a deputy district attorney assigned to the Torrance branch office, died Sunday of a coronary occlusion while motorcycling in the Lancaster area.

Born in Bloomington, Ill., he was graduated from the University of Illinois with a law degree in 1962 and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1963. He joined the district attorney's staff later that year.

Mr. Burnett successfully prosecuted Jerry Lee O'Brien for the murder of Torrance Police Officer David N. Sei-



GET NEW BADGES . . . Battalion Chief Ray Flagg (at left) presents a new captain's badge to Robert Ward, one of three newly promoted captains on the Torrance Fire Department. Waiting to get their new badges are Richard DeArmitt and William Kerr. The promotions were announced this week by Fire Chief Robert Lucas. The three new captains will command Engine Company 7, headquartered at Station 1.

Three Firefighters Promoted to Captain

Promotion of six members of the Torrance Fire Department was announced here this week by Fire Chief Robert Lucas.

Three of the men — Richard DeArmitt, William Kerr, and Robert Ward — were promoted to captain, while the three others — Denny Haas, Edward Kennedy, and Edward Siminich — were promoted to the rank of engineer.

All promotions became effective last Sunday, Chief Lucas said.

Captains DeArmitt, Kerr, and Ward will command Engine Company 7, headquartered at Fire Station 1. Haas, Kennedy, and Siminich also will be assigned to Fire Station 1.

Chief Lucas said the six promoted firefighters have earned a total of 186 college units in fire science. Four of the men currently are enrolled in college, seeking bachelor of arts degrees in fire administration.

"The trend in modern fire

departments in heavily toward higher education," the chief said, "because of complex problems confronting

the firefighter in such areas as cryogenics, hazardous materials, incompatible materials, and many others."

Progress Report

Municipal Bus Deficit Drops

Operating expenses of the Torrance Transit System dropped about \$8,000 during the quarter ending June 30, 1968, according to the latest bus progress report prepared by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro.

The net loss for the final quarter of fiscal 1968 was \$19,416, compared with a net loss of \$27,542 in the same quarter last year.

A boost in the base fare beginning May 1, 1968, is largely responsible for the decrease, although the number of passengers carried during the two quarters

dropped from 155,694 in 1967 to 148,375 in 1968.

OPERATING expenses were also slightly less during the final quarter of 1968, which ended June 30.

In the progress report presented Tuesday night to City Councilmen, Ferraro also reported that all phases of the bus improvement program were on schedule except the purchase of new equipment, which is ahead of schedule.

Three new buses ordered by the city are due to be delivered on or before Dec. 31, 1968, instead of the original target date of March 11, 1969. The buses will be air conditioned.

FERRARO also reported that the revised Torrance-Los Angeles schedule, which went into effect Sept. 15, has disrupted the normal working schedules of only a few people. The city manager's office is working to correct the problems, he said.

The new "Shopper's Special," instituted Sept. 3, has been "very slow" in gaining acceptance, Ferraro stated. The line, which makes eight round trips per day, has been averaging 25 fares daily.

Two-man crews have completed the painting and grooming of all bus stops and the street department has put blacktop at every stop in the city of Torrance, the report continued. Signs are presently being erected at these stops.

TWO OF the city's buses have been repainted in the new red-and-white design (See BUSES, Page A-3)

State Hearing on Freeway to Begin

Building Activity Wanes

Building activity in Torrance during the month of September was markedly lower than during the same month last year, except in the category of single family dwellings.

Total valuation of construction was listed as \$1,635,545 for the 185 building permits issued during September. In 1967, the corresponding figures were \$2,097,895 for 228 permits.

However, total valuation from January through September this year was tallied at \$33,689,960 for 2,169 permits, showing an increase over figures for the same time period last year, which were \$21,924,300 for 2,215 building permits.

EIGHT NEW commercial buildings, with a construction value of \$686,380, were started in September, 1967. Only one new commercial building, valued at \$26,900, was approved this September.

Additions, alterations, and repairs to commercial buildings plummeted from \$403,585 in Sept. 1967, to \$153,325 in Sept. 1968.

One new industrial building, valued at \$123,650, was permitted in September 1967, while no requests for industrial building permits were voted this September.

Additions and repairs to industrial buildings in Torrance came to \$470,770 in (See BUILDING, Page A-3)

City Sets Code For Apartments

Detailed recommendations for improving the quality and livability of apartment houses constructed in Torrance were approved in principle by the City Council Tuesday night, following recent approval of the recommendations by the Planning Commission.

The measures will be submitted to the council in ordinance form for its approval at a forthcoming meeting. Councilman Orin Johnson commented that it is essential that the remaining property in Torrance be developed along high standards.

BRIEFLY, the Planning Commission recommended that no apartment house or dwelling shall occupy a site which provides less than 1,000 square feet of land area per dwelling unit.

Other requirements are: • Where 50 per cent or more of the face of a building is set back more than the required distance, the remainder may project into the required front yard to within 10 feet of the property line; • A minimum of 50 per



J. WALKER OWENS
On Committee

Chamber Manager Gets Post

J. Walker Owens, executive vice president and general manager of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, has been named to the Management Standards Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

The appointment was announced yesterday in Portland, Ore., where the group is holding its 54th annual conference.

As a member of the committee, he will assist in presenting recommendations for improving the standards of performance of Chamber of Commerce executives.

Owens also is president-elect of the California Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. He will take office Jan. 1.

Demands for Night Session Turned Down

A public hearing on the route of the Torrance Freeway—to be conducted by the State Division of Highways—is scheduled to get under way at 10 a.m. tomorrow at Torrance High School.

The hearing is being held over the protests of four mayors and Assemblyman L. E. (Larry) Townsend (D-Torrance), who have demanded the hearing be scheduled at night.

Townsend and the four mayors also have suggested a second meeting—to be held in the evening—might be scheduled.

THE OFFICIALS charged that the day hearing was scheduled deliberately to keep down attendance.

Townsend has said he will testify at tomorrow's session and demand that a supplemental night hearing be held.

"If state officials refuse," the assemblyman said, "then I will introduce legislation asking the route be excluded from the freeway system." Townsend said this course is the only control the legislature has over a freeway route.

BASED on testimony heard at tomorrow's session, along with written information which may be submitted during the next 30 days, the Division of Highways will recommend a route for the freeway to the California Highway Commission. Final decision on the route is up to that body, which may hold additional hearings if it so desires.

State highway officials have denied that the hearing

was set to deliberately hold down attendance and have refused to reschedule the session.

Vern Hall of the Division (See FREEWAY, Page A-3)

Trustees Won't Pick Any Route

The Torrance Unified School District Board of Education will not take a position on proposed freeway earmarked for the city.

The board was provided with a lengthy freeway orientation at Monday night's district meeting. An aerial photograph depicted the proximity between the freeway routes and the schools affected.

The "red route," favored by the Torrance City Council, appears to cut into the Levy School site, Board President Dr. Owen Griffith said.

None of the high schools are in much danger of the freeway routes, although noise problems and detours would be factors during construction, it was pointed out.

Mrs. Polly Watts, a board member, urged that the school district not take action. She said no matter what route is chosen it will affect the school district.

Board member Bert Lynn said he felt an endorsement of a freeway route might alienate the voters and have an influence on the district's Proposition T on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Council Cancels Meeting

Next Tuesday's regular meeting of the Torrance City Council has been cancelled. A majority of the councilmen will be attending sessions of the League of California Cities. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 8 p.m.

Narcotics Raid Nets Seven

Seven persons were arrested about 10:15 p.m. Monday when state narcotics officers and Hermosa Beach police raided a home at 728 Avenue C in the Clifton Heights area between Torrance and Redondo Beach. Four of the suspects were charged with possession of heroin. They were: Lawrence John Peak, 27, Lawrence Franklin Brazil, 37, and Donna Rae Brazil, 33, all of 728 Avenue C; and Eleanor Louise Martinez, 31, of 728 1/2 Avenue C. Arrested on misdemeanor charges of visiting a place where narcotics was being used are Bobby Dale Meeker, 30, of 300 Palos Verdes Blvd.; James David Sumpter, 34, of 1620 Spreckles Lane, Redondo Beach; and Paul George Delia, 26, of 4202 Torrance Blvd.

Tax Measure Is Topic

Members of the Torrance Board of Education will discuss Proposition T, a ballot measure which seeks continuation of the school district's present 90-cent override tax, at two open house events tonight. Dr. Owen Griffith, president of the board, will discuss the measure at South High School at 7:30 p.m. Board members Burton Belzer and Bert Lynn will make brief presentations at Torrance High School, beginning at 7 p.m. Both schools are holding open house events this evening.



ROBERT L. BURNETT
Rites Slated